



PRESS RELEASE

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PHOENIX RESIDENT WITH FOUR PRIOR BURGLARY CONVICTIONS SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS AFTER ARREST WITH A GUN AND STOLEN MAIL

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, United States Postal Inspection Service's Phoenix Field Office, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Phoenix Field Division announced that on June 17, 2002, TRAVIS EUGENE KEESEE, DOB August 17, 1963, of Phoenix, Arizona, was sentenced to 15 years in prison, by United States District Judge Earl H. Carroll, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Keesee had been found guilty by a jury on March 13, 2002, of Felon in Possession of a Firearm in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1). In addition, on June 17, 2002, Judge Carroll found that Keesee's four prior burglary convictions, in conjunction with the instant firearm conviction, required a minimum sentence of 15 years in prison under the Armed Career Criminal Act, Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(e).

At trial, the government presented evidence that on July 13, 2000, Keesee was apprehended by the Flagstaff Police Department while he was hiding in his motor home. Keesee had just parked the motor home in an apartment complex parking lot. Keesee did not reside at the apartment complex and was wanted

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for questioning by the Flagstaff Police Department on an unrelated case. A search after Keesee's subsequent arrest uncovered a handgun in a locked safe along with Keesee's wallet and other personal items. At sentencing, Judge Carroll found Keesee was eligible for sentencing as an "Armed Career Criminal" because he had been found guilty of Felon in Possession of a Firearm and had at least three prior felony convictions for burglary. Keesee's criminal history includes felony convictions for Burglary in the Second Degree, Superior Court of the State of Washington, Clallam County, August 3, 1984; Burglary in the Second Degree, 2 Counts, Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, Crook County, on June 18, 1992; and Burglary in the Second Degree, Circuit Court of the State of Oregon, Deschutes County, on June 18, 1992.

At sentencing, Keesee sought a lesser sentence based upon the age of his prior burglary convictions and relative lack of recent criminal history. In response, the government noted that at the time of his arrest, Keesee was also found in possession of over 200 financial documents and pieces of personal identification previously stolen from over 65 different victims. The vast majority of the documents had been stolen from the U.S. Mail. Among the stolen items were check books, credit cards, credit card convenience checks, bank statements, pre-approved credit card applications, social security cards and drivers' licenses. In addition, numerous burglary tools were found in Keesee's motor home including an acetylene torch concealed in a black canvas backpack, a dark watch cap, gloves, large pry bars, two way radios, a police scanner, hack saws and large bolt cutters.

Keesee has been in custody since July 21, 2000, and was remanded by Judge Carroll to the custody of the Federal Bureau Prisons.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the United States Postal Inspection Service, Flagstaff Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

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